APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/136,244	08/19/1998	MORDECHAI M. BEIZER	76179DAN	1470

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EXAMINER
COLBERT, ELLA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3624	

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _29 May 2002_ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-13 and 15-58_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-13 and 15-58_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1, 9, 10, 13, 20, 21, 28, 37, 43, 47, and 53 have been amended and claim

14 has been canceled in this communication filed 05/29/02 entered as Supplemental

Amendment E, paper no. 21.

2.   Applicants' Request for RCE filed 05/29/02 has been entered as paper no. 20.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-13 and 15-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over (US 5,819,295) Nakagawa et al, hereafter Nakagawa and (US

5,873,103) Trede et al, hereafter Trede.

With respect to claim 1, Nakagawa teaches the at least one structured workfolder

for storing and organizing electronic documents which the documents may or may not

exist at the time of the workfolder creation (col. 2, lines 30-41, col. 5, lines 4-7, and col.

8, lines 4-13) and the workfolder containing a contents node for storing primary data,

the contents node containing one or more placeholders within the workfolder for new

documents expected to be added to the workfolder via the placeholder (col. 2, lines 30-

56), and wherein each placeholder includes a file object hook to which a primary data

document can later be linked and a deadline element having a triggering condition field

for storing a triggering event and an indicated time period relative to the occurrence of

the triggering event (col. 5, lines 32-43 and col. 7, lines 39-63). Nakagawa did not

teach, each placeholder being a respective slot or a contents node. The Trede et al

reference discloses, each placeholder being a respective slot (col. 6, lines 51-60) and a

contents node (col. 8, lines 30-43). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have each placeholder to be a

respective slot by incorporating the teachings of Nakagawa in Trede as taught by Trede

because this facilitates the use of holding a place in a hierarchical file system of folders

for managing electronic documents when old versions of documents are stored or

moved (Nakagawa reference, col. 2, lines 10-21).

With respect to claim 2, Nakagawa teaches, the contents element further

contains one or more section elements for categorizing the primary data (col. 2, lines

42-48 and col. 3, lines 64-67 and col. 4, lines 1-12).

With respect to claim 3, Nakagawa teaches, a link to a document, and a nested

section element (col. 7, lines 18-56). Nakagawa did not explicitly teach, the section

elements contain one or more of a placeholder. Trede teaches the section elements

contains one or more of a placeholder (col. 6, lines 32-60). It would have been obvious

to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the

section elements to contain one or more placeholders by incorporating the teachings of

Nakagawa in Trede as taught by Trede because this facilitates the use of holding a

place in a hierarchical file system of folders for managing electronic documents and

section elements when documents are classified in the different layers and linked

according to the hierarchical structure (Nakagawa reference col. 7, lines 18-21).

With respect to claim 4, Nakagawa teaches, the link identifies a document embedded in the workfolder (col. 8, lines 20-65).

With respect to claim 5, Nakagawa teaches, the link identifies a document external to the workfolder (col. 7, lines 19-26 and fig. 2).

With respect to claim 6, the contents node further contains at least one link to a document (col. 7, lines 19-22 and fig. 2.).

With respect to claim 7, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 4.

With respect to claim 8, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 5.

With respect to claim 9, Nakagawa teaches, a name field for indicating the data content of the document to be placed in the workfolder and a file object hook to which the primary data document can later be linked (col. 7, lines 39-63).

With respect to claim 10, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1 and 9.

With respect to claim 11, Nakagawa teaches, a status element indicating a status for a document linked to the placeholder (col. 4, lines 66-67, col. 5, lines 1-25, and co1. 18-56).

With respect to claim 12, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 11.

With respect to claim 13, Nakagawa teaches, a deadline element further includes a field indicating the time period for taking a particular action associated with the placeholder (col. 5, lines 32-43).

With respect to claim 15, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

With respect to claim 16, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

With respect to claim 17, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

With respect to claim 18, Nakagawa teaches, the workfolder further comprises a task data element containing one or more tasks which define a set of steps required to complete a unit of work, each task having a name field ... (col. 11, lines 18-29).

With respect to claim 19, Nakagawa teaches, the task element further comprises an assignment field for indicating one or more users responsible for performing the particular task (col. 11, lines 63-67 and col. 12, lines 1-5).

With respect to claim 20, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 13.

With respect to claim 21, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1 .

With respect to claim 22, Nakagawa teaches, the workfolder further comprises meta-data related to the primary data stored under the contents node (col. 7, lines 57-67 and col. 8, lines 1-12).

With respect to claim 23, Nakagawa teaches, the meta-data comprises a history element for storing a log of changes made to the workfolder (col.9, lines 10-35).

With respect to claim 24, Nakagawa teaches, the changes made to the workfolder, the log contains data fields for including information indicating at least one change was made, ... (col. 8, lines 39-67 and col. 9, lines 1-25).

With respect to claim 25, Nakagawa teaches, user-definable data fields relating to one or more properties of the workfolder (col. 8, lines 51-65).

With respect to claim 26, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 12.

With respect to claim 27, Nakagawa teaches, one or more embedded computer program scripts which provide functions related to the workfolder when the scripts are executed by the computer (col. 1, lines 24-35).

With respect to claims 28-31, these claims are rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1, 2, 18, and 22. Nakagawa did not teach, a template, but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a template for this purpose because a template is well known in the art as a pattern for arranging or matching things and a template in this instance can be used for matching instances of a structured workfolder. Nakagawa did not teach, the documents may or may not exist at the time of workfolder creation and the documents being linkable subsequent to their creation (col. 7, lines 11-31), but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have documents that may or may not exist at the time of workfolder creation and the

documents linkable subsequent to their creation and to modify in Nakagawa in view of

Nakagawa's teachings of folder management and one of the document type identifiers

indicating that it is not a document but a classification node because such a modification

would allow Nakagawa's folder management system to have created documents prior to

the creation of a workfolder and to make the documents linkable prior to being created.

The folder is created by the user and arranged in a hierarchy of folders according to the

users preference then it is determined if a document is to be filed.

With respect to claim 32, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale

given for claim 23.

With respect to claim 33, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale

given for claim 24.

With respect to claim 34, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale

for claim 26.

With respect to claim 35, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale

given for claim 27.

With respect to claim 36, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale

given above for claim 25.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 37-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
(US 5,873,103) Trede et al, hereafter Trede in view of (US 5,873,103) Nakagawa et al,
hereafter Nakagawa.

With respect to claim 37, Trede teaches, creating a structured workfolder root
node, the root node containing a contents element for storing primary data (col. 2, lines
30-65, col. 6, lines 46-54, col. 8, lines 27-50, and fig. 9) and creating at least one
placeholder being a slot that has been reserved for new documents which may or may
not exist at the time of workfolder creation and expected to be linked to the workfolder
via a placeholder (col. 2, lines 30-56). Trede did not teach, wherein the placeholder
includes a file object hook to which a primary data document can later be linked and a
deadline element having a triggering condition field for storing a triggering event and an
indicated time period relative to the occurrence of the triggering event. Nakagawa
discloses, wherein the placeholder includes a file object hook to which a primary data
document can later be linked and a deadline element having a triggering condition field
for storing a triggering event and an indicated time period relative to the occurrence of
the triggering event (col. 5, lines 32-43 and col. 7, lines 39-63). It would have been
obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to
have the placeholder includes a file object hook to which a primary data document can
later be linked and a deadline element having a triggering condition field for storing a
triggering event and an indicated time period relative to the occurrence of the triggering
event and to by incorporating the teachings of Nakagawa in Trede because this

facilitates the use of holding a place in a hierarchical file system of folders for managing electronic documents when old versions of documents are stored or moved (Nakagawa reference, col. 2, lines 10-21) and allows a document to be linked. A hierarchy by definition is an organization, like a tree, branches into more specific units, each of which is "owned" by the higher-level unit immediately above and organizational frameworks reflect logical links, or relationships between records, files, or pieces of equipment.

Trede did not teach, the documents may or may not exist at the time of workfolder creation, but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have documents that may or may not exist at the time of workfolder creation and to modify in Trede because such a modification would allow Trede's folder management system to have created documents prior to the creation of a workfolder and to make the documents linkable prior to being created. The folder is created by the user and arranged in a hierarchy of folders according to the user's preference then it is determined if a document is to be filed.

With respect to claim 38, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 2.

With respect to claim 39, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 3.

With respect to claim 40, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 3.

With respect to claim 41, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1 and 4-7.

With respect to claim 42, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 8.

With respect to claim 43, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 10.

With respect to claim 44, Trede did not teach, providing limits on at least one of the file name and file type of a document which can be linked to the placeholder. Nakagawa teaches, providing limits on at least one of the file name and file type of a document which can be linked to the placeholder (col. 7, lines 18-56). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide limits on at least one of the file name and file type of a document that can be linked to a place holder and to combine Trede's structured workfolder with Nakagawa's providing limits on at least one of the file name and file type of a document that can be linked to a placeholder because such a combination would allow only a user with access permission to have access to the document in the folder which is linked to the placeholder.

With the respect to claim 45, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 11.

With respect to claim 46, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 12.

With respect to claim 47, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 13.

With respect to claim 48, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 15.

With respect to claim 49, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 16.

With respect to claim 50, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 17.

With respect to claim 51, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 18.

With respect to claim 52, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 19.

With respect to claim 53, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 19.

With respect to claim 54, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 22.

With respect to claim 55, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 23.

With respect to claim 56, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 25.

With respect to claim 57, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 26.

With respect to claim 58, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 27.

Response to Arguments

6.   Applicant's arguments filed 06/20/01 have been fully considered by the Examiner.

Applicants' argue: The term "placeholder" in Trede has a different meaning than the term "placeholder" in the present invention has been considered but is not persuasive based on the term "placeholder" is a slot or space for reserving a place which is well known in the art. It is also, noted by the Examiner that the Trede Assignee is the same Assignee as for the Applicant. Therefore, based on this finding, the Examiner considers the term "placeholder" to have the same meaning and usage as the Applicant's "placeholder."

The Examiner interprets Trede as teaching using placeholders for "reserving" a slot in col. 7, lines 1-20 because Applicants' Specification on page 7, lines 5 and 6 recite "a placeholder is a slot. "

In this rejection of claim 1 and others above, for example under Section 103 of Title 35 of United States Code the Examiner carefully drew up a correspondence between the Applicants' claimed limitations and one or more referenced passages in Trede and Nakagawa. The Examiner is entitled to give claim limitations their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the Specification (see below):

2111   Claim Interpretation; Broadest Reasonable Interpretation [R-1]

>CLAIMS MUST BE GIVEN THEIR BROADEST REASONABLE INTERPRETATION
During patent examination, the pending claims must be "given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification." Applicant always has the opportunity to amend the claims during prosecution and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. In re Prater, 162 USPO 541,550 (CCA 1969).<

Conclusion

7.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wishnie (US 6,148,311) disclosed files, a hierarchy, linking, folders, and placeholder creation (col. 9, line 66).

Inquiries

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 703-308-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am -5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on 703-308-1038. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-746-5622 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

E. Colbert

August 7, 2002